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ABSTRACT

The general objective of this study is the investigation of some of the cognitive processes underlying adult second language acquisition through the analysis of the development of morphological markers of temporality in the acquisition of Spanish as a second language (L2) among native English speakers. It is argued that analysis of data on the development of verbal morphology provides empirical information for addressing two central questions in L2 acquisition: ultimate attainment in L2 development and the relative effect of instructed settings. The book is divided into seven chapters, including the following: "Aspect"; "The Development of Aspect in L1"; "The Development of Aspect in L2"; "Research Methodology in the Analysis of Past Tense Morphology"; "Analysis of Data Sets"; and "Developmental Stages in the Acquisition of Spanish Past Tense Morphology." Eight appendices and subject and name indexes are included. (Contains 233 references.)

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